

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 06627 141751Z

72

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 FEA-02

OMB-01 SWF-02 DRC-01 /194 W
----- 015513

R 141521Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4779

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, GATT, EEC, IT

SUBJECT: ITALIAN PRIOR IMPORT DEPOSITS

1. DURING MAY 13 CALL ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, EMBOFF TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS NONDISCRIMINATORY APPLICATION OF GOI PRIOR IMPORT DEPOSITS WITH MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) REP CALAMIA (DIRECTOR, EC-GATT AFFAIRS).

2. EMBOFF SAID USG WAS GRATIFIED THAT GOI HAS APPLIED PRIOR IMPORT
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PAGE 02 ROME 06627 141751Z

DEPOSIT SYSTEM IN NONDISCRIMINATORY MANNER, I.E., IMPORTS FROM ALL SOURCES WERE SUBJECT TO SAME RULES, AND NOTED THAT SUCH ACTION WAS

ESSENTIAL IF BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OBJECTIVE OF SYSTEM WERE TO BE MAINTAINED. WE WERE DISTURBED, HOWEVER, BY PRESS REPORTS INDICATING THAT AT LEAST SOME OTHER EC MEMBER COUNTRIES WOULD SEEK ALTERNATIVE SYSTEM SO THEIR PRODUCTS (ESPECIALLY AGRICULTURAL ITEMS) WOULD BE LESS AFFECTED BY ITALIAN MEASURES. EMBOFF EMPHASIZED THAT IN EMBASSY VIEW ANY MODIFICATIONS OF PRIOR IMPORT DEPOSIT SYSTEM, DE FACTO OR DE JURE, WHICH DEVIATED FROM PRINCIPLE OF NONDISCRIMINATION WOULD BE VIEWED WITH STRONG DISFAVOR BY USG, AND EMBASSY WISHED GOI BE FULLY AWARE OF THIS FACT.

3. CALAMIA STATED THAT GOI APPRECIATED RELATIVELY MILD USG POSTURE ON PRIOR IMPORT DEPOSIT SYSTEM, WAS FULLY AWARE OF USG ATTITUDE TOWARD NONDISCRIMINATORY APPLICATION OF GOI MEASURES, AND WANTED US TO KNOW THAT GOI INTENDS MAINTAIN MAXIMUM IMPACT ON IMPORTS IN APPLICATION OF PRIOR IMPORT DEPOSIT SYSTEM. GOI COULD NOT, IN FACT, AFFORD "LEAKAGE" WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM CHANGES HAVING DISCRIMINATORY EFFECT.

4. FOR USEC BRUSSELS: PLEASE INFORM WHETHER TWO GREEN LIRA DEVALUATIONS ARE CURRENTLY BEING FULLY COMPENSATED FOR BY COMPENSATORY LEVIES IN INTRA-EC TRADE. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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